32 A

MDP of God

In light of the election on Tuesday and all the turmoil leading up to and since then—with charges of election fraud—voter suppression---with court cases being filed and all the uncertainty/// and of course all the division that these things will foster---*I thought it would be good to reflect on a few things that the election doesn’t change*

1. God is still on His throne
2. Jesus is still the King of kings and the Lord of lords
3. The Bible still has God’s saving truth teaching us His Wisdom
4. The tomb is still empty
5. Jesus is still the only way to heaven
6. Prayer will still work—it will still make a difference—and God will still answer prayer
7. *The Cross*—**not the government**—will still be our salvation
8. Jesus still invites us to bear the cross with Him
9. Jesus will save anyone who places their faith and trust in Him
10. *God is still with us*—**He will always be with us**—He will never leave us or forsake us

I think it’s important that we remember these things—because these things constitute much of the Wisdom of God

And of course our readings today—especially our 1st reading and gospel—speak very much about God’s Wisdom—*our need for God’s Wisdom*—and how important living by Wisdom is if we are to be allowed into the wedding banquet of the Lamb

Our gospel today makes it clear that we need to live by the Wisdom of God—*if we’re to be ready when the Bridegroom comes for us*---Jesus of course is the Bridegroom

And Jesus is talking about whether we’ll be brought to by Him into the wedding banquet of heaven---or whether we’ll be excluded by Him from the banquet—and end up in hell

It makes it clear living by the Wisdom of God is essential if we are to be saved—if we are to be brought into heaven—if we’re going to be with Jesus forever

And I think this past week gives us the opportunity to reflect on if we’re focused more on life with God----or we’re more focused more on life in this world

On whether we trust the providence of God—*or we feel hopeless when things don’t go the way we want them to go in this world*

The bible teaches us that God will make all things work out for the good for those who love Him

 **Do you believe that?**

As I’ve watched the news the last few nights—as I’ve looked at YouTube videos---*there’s a lot of people* ---**on both sides of the political spectrum**--- who are consumed with the results of the election

There are people who have cut off friendships—who have allowed family ties to be destroyed over political disagreements

Folks—That’s is not living by the Wisdom of God---it’s not trusting the providence of God---it’s a refusal to live by the law of love that we read just a couple of weeks ago at Mass---to love God with all our heart and soul and mind-----*and to love our neighbor as ourselves*

Do you believe Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords? Do you believe that Jesus is on the throne *and that He will work our eternal good out* **of anything** that comes our way?

If you do--- then you know whatever happens God can draw our eternal good out of whoever wins

If you do---then you know that God has a plan---He’s working out His plan---*and His plan will be glorious in the end*---**even when we don’t understand it**

One of those immutable truths I mentioned earlier---one of the things that doesn’t change from the election---*is that prayer still has power*—that God still hears and answers prayers—the prayer makes a difference

Right now we need to be praying for our country---for our families---for our friends---for people we don’t agree with---*even for-*--**maybe especially for**---people we consider our enemies

I know myself---I always find that praying for people who hurt me—or people I believe who are doing things wrong---*or people whose attitudes I find horrendous---***praying for them keeps me from hating them**

Now to be honest—I think there’s some people I haven’t been praying for enough---like the news media—they really need prayers—and I know I need to be praying for them—because God doesn’t want us to hate anyone

So if we’re praying sincerely for people –*our prayer can change them*---**but just as importantly**—it can change us—it can change our thoughts about people—our attitudes toward people

It can help us to live the law of love that Jesus shared with us just two Sundays ago at Mass

I just want to ask you to ponder a question as you leave today---*since the election have you spent more time in prayer*---**or more time following the election results**

You know looking at newspapers—listening to talk radio—watching news programs or going to video bloggers to hear their take on the election and what’s going on?

I just want to point out—if you’re spending more time on following the news than you’ve spent in prayer for our country---you probably need to regroup—look at your priorities-- fall on your knees praying for our country

I also want to give another suggestion

I know in the past when I would pray for people who I was angry at—people who I thought were doing terrible things or who had terrible attitudes

My prayer would often go like this” In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit---“God give them the grace to change—give them the grace to realize what idiots they are—give them the grace to realized how evil they are— give them the grace to repent of their evil—Amen”

I have to tell you in praying that way---*when I got done praying I was more angry than when I started*—**it wasn’t very effective**

Now when I pray for people I’m angry at—people I think are doing horrendous things---I pray a rosary for them—or a decade of the rosary for them

So in praying for them –I’m reflecting on the mysteries of the rosary---which means I’m reflecting on the good things God has done for me and the world--- *I’m praying for the people I’m upset with*---**but I’m not focusing on their faults and failings**---I’m focused on the good things God is doing in the world

I’ve found that to be much more effective*---at least in changing my attitude* and helping me to love people who sometimes haven’t acted in real lovable ways

My dear people---our readings today call us to live by the Wisdom of God

No matter what happens with the election---Let’s be wise enough to recognize that God is still on the throne---Jesus is still the King of kings and Lord of lords---and prayer still makes a difference in our lives and in the world

Let’s pray for our nation---let’s pray for those we disagree with or with those we’re angry with—*let’s pray that we’ll fully embrace and live with the Wisdom of our loving God*

God bless you